

**From:** FISHERLT@aol.com@inetgw  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/7/02 10:41am  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

Please let this settlement be done and over with. The US Government has spent so much of our taxpayers dollars to go after a company who is being penalized for being successful and it's competitors are crying the blues because they are behind the 8-ball. They are putting money into the pockets of Liberals to battle Microsoft in the courtroom and not on the consumer product field and it hasn't worked. Microsoft has continued to bring out new products and prosper financially despite the Antitrust lawsuit against them showing their resilience. If the Department of Justice wants a true monopoly to go after, look back to proposed legislation from the fall of 1999 from Senator Tim Johnson from South Dakota, I think, about companies in the meat processing business owning livestock. Some states have adopted laws to try to slow down companies like Smithfield Foods. They continue to destroy a segment of the food chain and this Government does nothing about it. They are the largest pork processor in the US and the largest pork producer in the US. They continue to grow by buying up the competition in their market and totally control the market price of pork in this nation. They also continue to grow by acquiring producer farms through a practice they used during the market lows of the late 1990s of ledger buying. They took over Murphy Farms that way, and they were the single largest pork producer in this country. Microsoft having market superiority does not hurt consumers, ask consumers of their products what they think about them bringing new products to the market, and if their bring competitive products, who benefits? The consumer! If Smithfield Foods continues to roll like an avalanche over the pork production business without any regard period, who loses? The consumer just for starters! Pork producers as well, the meat processing business, and the government. Please take a look at this Goliath company and it's business practices. I live in North Carolina and in the last 10 years have seen this company single-handedly destroy the pork production business in the states of North and South Carolina and Georgia. There are NO competitive packers in the areas and every time there has been any rumors of some other company coming to the Southeast, Smithfield Foods immediately jumps on the situation with both feet and squelches any possibility of competition in this area. They bought every competitor in the area as well as some in the Midwest and have shut them down. This situation is worthy of a look if any person within the Department of Justice is truly concerned for the well being of the citizens of the United States of America. Thank you!

Robert A. Fisher